

every age, every ethnic group, all religions, all with one message: Bring our troops home now.

There were six Members of Congress who were present there, and we thanked all of the people who attended for caring enough to come to Washington, DC, to spend their money to urge their government to end this war.

Mr. Speaker and Members, this was democracy at work. It was a beautiful day. People were in high spirits. We walked. We sang. We chanted. And we literally said we love this country, we love our soldiers, and we want the best for our people.

We were joined by many veterans. There were several veterans groups there. But the most moving and touching part of this march was the mothers who marched with us, and they had signs. Some of them had signs of their sons who had been killed in Iraq. Some of them brought the message that they had paid a huge sacrifice and they did not wish Americans to continue paying this high price for a war that we should not be in.

This is a war that it is easy to be against, because we were led into this war under false pretenses. There are no weapons of mass destruction. We have been told that we would be greeted with open arms. We were told that we would be seen as the liberators. None of that was true. We are occupiers, and they want us out of Iraq. It is not simply that the Sunnis want us out of Iraq. It is not simply that the Shiites want us out or the Kurds want us out. They all want us out of Iraq.

This was a wonderful weekend because not only did we march and we rallied, but the marchers came to Capitol Hill and they lobbied their legislators. They knocked on their doors. They came from all these towns and hamlets and cities all over America to talk with their legislators. This truly was democracy at work.

And today we filled 1100 Longworth, the Ways and Means room, where we had a forum with 11 book authors who have written about the war in Iraq, what is wrong with it and why we should get out, and did we have a discussion. It was one of the most beautiful discussions with highly intelligent authors who have done research, who have put a lot of work into producing these books. And they shared with us in a very profound way what they knew and why they had decided to take a part of their lives to stop and write about what is wrong with our being in Iraq.

So this was a wonderful weekend. This has been a wonderful time. I keep saying this is democracy at work because this is what the Constitution is all about. It is about participation of the citizens.

The citizens of this country are sick and tired of this war. I don't know why the Members of Congress are allowing the citizens to get way ahead of them. They elect us to come and represent them. They think that we have the re-

sources to know what is going on. We give a lot of money to our intelligence agencies. We should be able to tell the people what is wrong and what is going on in Iraq. But, instead, they are ahead of us; and they are urging us to stop this war.

But, in the final analysis, they know everything about what we are doing. It is not enough to talk the talk. You have got to walk the walk. They know the difference between nuancing and posturing, and they want action.

And they know that we are about to have a resolution over in this House that will disagree with the surge, the escalation that is being advocated by this President. But they also understand that we can't stop that, that the President has already started to resend soldiers. These are not new boots on the ground. These are soldiers that have done their tours, that have been sent back a second and third time, and they say that is not enough.

They will know whether or not we mean business if we are prepared to stop funding this war.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, we come to the House tonight to talk about a variety of things, most of which we will deal with taxes and the impact those taxes have on good, hard-working men and women across this country.

But I did want to respond just a little bit to what the previous speaker bragged about. She went through a long litany of good things that happened this weekend, which I certainly agree with everyone's right to do what they did and to express themselves and to come to this Capitol and make those statements.

She did leave out one minor issue, though, and that is that some of the antiwar protestors brought spray paint with them. And they came to this Capitol, this hallowed ground, the center of liberty for the world, which looks to this Capitol building for that; and those folks brought spray paint, and they painted the walls. They spray painted anarchy signs and anarchy slogans on the walls of this Capitol, which I think defacing public property under any circumstance ought to be wrong. That is wrong.

What else is wrong is the fact that the Capitol Hill Police were told to

allow that conduct to go on. And there were reports in one of the scandal rags today that the police's reaction to that was that they were disgusted. They were livid about the fact that they were forced to allow these anarchists to deface this public property, this building, which all of us serve in. Most of us serve very proudly here.

So not all of the folks who came this weekend conducted themselves the way that they should have, and there was a problem with that. And, hopefully, we will learn what the responsibility of the Democratic leadership was, what their role was in overriding what the Capitol Hill Police's natural and normal reaction would have been. Where did that come from and who told them not to stop that? We hope that we get some answers to those questions over the next coming days, because it is a serious issue when people are allowed to deface this building.

But let us talk about taxes. As our sign shows here, we are 1,433 days away from a staggeringly large tax increase. The first year I think it will be \$250 billion of taxes. In 2011, we will get an immediate bump. The Democrats simply have to do nothing.

In the 109th Congress, Lou Dobbs and others accused us of being a "do-nothing Congress." Well, you can put that label on the coming tax increase, because the Democrats simply have to do nothing over the next 4 years, and that is exactly what is going to happen.

Built into the current law, the current Tax Code has a drop-dead date of December 31, 2010, in which the changes made to the estate tax will expire and the other provisions of the 2001/2003 tax reductions will also expire. So if the Democrats do nothing, then we are 1,433 days away from that major increase. We are only 11 days since the last tax increase by the Democrats. And that was on Thursday a week or so ago where they increased taxes on the oil and gas business in this country, and we have talked about that some as well.

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We are going to have several speakers tonight, and the first one that we are going to yield time to is my good colleague, JOHN SULLIVAN from Oklahoma.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my friend from Texas for doing this tonight, and also my friend, Congressman SHUSTER from Pennsylvania. This is a very important topic, talking about tax relief for America's working families, for America's small business people.

You know, we have seen a great economy recently. It is roaring along. Unemployment benefits are at an all-time low. You know, gross domestic product is up. We are seeing record numbers in our economy right now. That is due in small part, or in large part, because of the tax relief measures instituted by President Bush.

I do not think, you know, tax relief is the only answer to a robust economy